

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber, the device comprising:

a receiver body for receiving an optical fiber having a covering layer to be removed; and

a cutting blade adaptive to be relatively moved toward said receiver body for cutting the covering layer of the optical fiber, wherein said cutting blade comprises an elastic plastic, said cutting blade has an edge surface substantially perpendicular to side surfaces of the cutting blade, and said receiver body is sized such that when an optical fiber is set on a surface of said receiver body opposite to said cutting blade the length of the optical fiber is longer than the thickness of said cutting blade, and said cutting blade has a bending elasticity in a range of 900 - 20,000 MPa.

2. (Previously Presented) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber, the device comprising:

a receiver body for receiving an optical fiber having a covering layer to be removed; and

a cutting blade adaptive to be relatively moved toward said receiver body for cutting the covering layer of the optical fiber, wherein said cutting blade comprises an elastic plastic, said cutting blade has an edge surface substantially perpendicular to side surfaces of the cutting blade, and said receiver body is sized such that when an optical fiber is set on a surface of said receiver body opposite to said cutting blade the length of the optical fiber is longer than the thickness of said cutting blade, and said cutting blade has a thickness in a range of 0.06 - 1 mm.

3. (Original) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 1, further comprising a guide means for guiding the optical fiber to a removing position between said receiver body and the cutting blade.

4. (Original) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 2, further comprising a guide means for guiding the optical fiber to a removing position between said receiver body and the cutting blade.

5. (Original) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein the cutting blade has a thickness in a range of 0.06 - 1 mm.

6. (Original) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 5, further comprising a guide means for guiding the optical fiber to a removing position between said receiver body and the cutting blade.

7. (Original) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber, the device comprising:

first and second cutting blades for cutting a covering layer of an optical fiber by moving toward each other, wherein each of said cutting blades comprises an elastic plastic, each of said cutting blades have edge surfaces substantially perpendicular to side surfaces of the cutting blades, and each of said cutting blades has a thickness in a range of 0.06 - 1 mm.

8. (Previously Presented) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber, the device comprising:

first and second cutting blades for cutting a covering layer of an optical fiber by moving toward each other, wherein each of said cutting blades comprises elastic plastics, each of said cutting blades have edge surfaces substantially perpendicular to side surfaces of the cutting blades, and each of said cutting blades has a bending elasticity in a range of 900 - 20,000 MPa.

9. (Original) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 7, further comprising a guide means for moving the first and second cutting blades toward each other so that edges of the cutting blades face each other.

10. (Original) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 8, further comprising a guide means for moving the first and second cutting blades toward each other so that edges of the cutting blades face each other.

11. (Currently Amended) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber, the device comprising:

first and second cutting blades for cutting a covering layer of an optical fiber by moving toward each other, wherein each of said cutting blades comprises an elastic plastic, each of said cutting ~~blade~~ blades has an edge surface substantially perpendicular to side surfaces of the cutting blade, and each of said cutting blades has a thickness in a range of 0.06 - 1 mm and a bending elasticity in a range of 900 - 20,000 MPa.

12. (Original) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 11, further comprising a guide means for moving the first and second cutting blades toward each other so that edges of the cutting blades face each other.

13. (Currently Amended) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein a length of the cutting blade and the receiver body are always substantially parallel.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber according to claim 2, wherein a length of the cutting blade and the receiver body are always substantially parallel.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for removing a covering layer of an optical fiber, the method comprising:

using a device comprising a receiver body for receiving an optical fiber having a covering layer to be removed and a cutting blade adaptive to be relatively moved toward said receiver body for cutting the covering layer of the optical fiber, wherein said cutting blade comprises an elastic plastic, said cutting blade has an edge

surface substantially perpendicular to side surfaces of the cutting blade, and said receiver body is sized such that when an optical fiber is set on a surface of said receiver body opposite to said cutting blade the length of the optical fiber is longer than the thickness of said cutting blade, and said cutting blade has a bending elasticity in a range of 900 - 20,000 MPa, to remove a covering layer of an optical fiber.